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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

First informal open-ended inter-sessional meeting
Vienna, 7-9 July 1997

REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, held its first informal open-ended inter-sessional meeting from 7 to 9 July 1997.

2. The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Commission acting as preparatory body. The Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme made an introductory statement.

3. The officers of the first session of the Commission acting as preparatory body, held at Vienna from 26 to 27 March 1997, continued to exercise their functions during the inter-sessional meeting.

B. Attendance

4. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela.

5. The following non-member States sent observers: Holy See and Switzerland.

6. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the United Nations Secretariat was represented.

7. The following United Nations bodies were represented: International Narcotics Control Board, United Nations Development Programme and United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

8. The following specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and World Health Organization.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations sent observers: European Community (European Commission, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and Secretariat General of the Council of the European Union), League of Arab States and Organization of American States.

10. The International Criminal Police Organization, an organization having a special arrangement with the Economic and Social Council, was represented.

11. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

(a) General consultative status: International Council of Women, Soroptimist International, Transnational Radical Party, and Zonta International;

(b) Special consultative status: All India Women's Conference, Association for the Advancement of Psychological Understanding of Human Nature, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), International Association of Judges, International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, Italian Centre of Solidarity, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for International and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of Catholic Students), Society for Threatened Peoples and World Organization of the Scout Movement (World Scout Bureau).

C. Agenda

12. At its 1st meeting, on 7 July 1997, the Commission acting as preparatory body adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.7/1997/PC.4). The agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Measures to counter illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of stimulants.
3. Measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs.
4. Other matters.
5. Report on the outcome of proceedings.

D. Outcome of proceedings

13. At its 6th meeting, on July 9 1997, the meeting took note that the working documents which had constituted the basis for its discussions of agenda items 2 and 3 would be revised by the Secretariat to reflect comments and reformulations made in the course of its deliberations (see paragraphs 16-17 and 20-21 below).

II. MEASURES TO COUNTER ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF, TRAFFICKING IN AND ABUSE OF STIMULANTS

14. The inter-sessional meeting considered agenda item 2, entitled "Measures to counter illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of stimulants", at its 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 7 and 8 July 1997. For its consideration of the item, the meeting had before it the following documents:

(a) Countermeasures against manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.3);

(b) Report of the Expert Meeting on Amphetamine-type Stimulants, held at Shanghai, China, from 25 to 29 November 1996 (E/CN.7/1997/6);

(c) Measures to counter illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of stimulants (INCB/STI).

15. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Luxembourg (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The observer for Switzerland made a statement. The President of the International Narcotics Control Board made a statement. The observer for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction made a statement. The observer for the Transnational Radical Party made a statement. The observer for the European Commission made a statement.

16. At the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a draft plan of action derived from the conference room paper on countermeasures against manufacturing, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.3). The draft plan of action was subdivided into five sections reflecting the structure of the report of the Expert Meeting on Amphetamine-type Stimulants, held at Shanghai in November 1996 (E/CN.7/1997/6). The five sections dealt with the issues of raising awareness of, reducing demand for, providing accurate information on, limiting supply of and strengthening the control system applicable to amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. It was agreed that the draft plan of action would serve as a basis for the discussions by the inter-sessional meeting. The draft plan of action was later circulated as a non-paper in all official languages.

17. It was also agreed that the Secretariat, following the conclusion of the inter-sessional meeting, would revise the draft plan of action, taking into account the comments made during the meeting. The revised text would then be sent to Governments for any additional comments that they might have, on the basis of which a second revised text would be prepared for submission to the second session of the Commission acting as preparatory body, for its consideration and its subsequent transmission to the General Assembly at its special session.

III. MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE CONTROL AND MONITORING OF PRECURSORS FREQUENTLY USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ILLICIT DRUGS

18. The intersessional meeting considered agenda item 3 entitled "Measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs" at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings on 8 and 9 July 1997. For its consideration of the item, the meeting had before it the following documents:

(a) Draft declaration on control of chemical precursors (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.2);

(b) Options for control in preventing diversion of precursors and chemicals into the illicit manufacture of drugs (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.4);

(c) Measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs (INCB/PRE).

19. Following an introductory statement by the Secretariat, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The observer for Switzerland made a statement. The President of the International Narcotics Control Board made a statement. The observer for the European Commission made a statement.

20. At the beginning of its consideration of the item, the meeting agreed to use a non-paper prepared by interested delegations as the basis for its discussion. That paper used proposals contained in E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.2 as basis for further discussion. It was also agreed that issues covered in the other documents before the Commission could be identified in the course of debate and integrated into the text.

21. The Secretariat was requested to reformulate the text in the light of comments made and to circulate it to Governments for additional views, using a system similar to that chosen for further analysis of item 2 (see paragraph 17 above).